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Applicant	:	Andrew R. Ferlitsch	
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TC/A.U.	:	2626	
Examiner	:	Ebrahimi Dehkordy, Saeid	
Docket No.	:	SLA1037	
Customer No.	:	52894	
Title	:	METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR PRINT SYSTEM COMPONENT-GENERATED JOB SEPARATOR PAGES	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT FILED WITH RCE

Krieger Intellectual Property, Inc.
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April 10, 2006

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This response is filed with a Request for Continued Examination.

In response to the Office Action of January 10, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended)   A method for combining a print job separator page ~~with~~ and a print job into a single, integrated print job, said method comprising:

receiving an original print job at a print system component;

analyzing said original print job with said print system component to identify print job characteristics to be included on a print job separator page; and

creating a ~~combined~~ single, integral print job comprising said original print job and ~~a~~ said print job separator page.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said print system component is a print processor.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said print system component is a spooler.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said print system component is a print assistant.

5.   (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said print system component is located on a print server.

6.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising sending said ~~combined~~ single, integral print job to a printer.

7.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising sending said ~~combined~~ single, integral print job to a print server.

8.   (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said creating comprises adding data for said print job separator page to said original print job.

9.   (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said creating comprises creating a new print job file comprising data for said print job separator page and said original print job.

10.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~combined~~ single, integral print job comprises said original print job preceded by ~~a~~ said job separator page that identifies said original print job.

11.   (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said print job separator page comprises a summary of characteristics of said original print job.

12.   (currently amended) A method for <u>creating a single, integrated print job by</u> combining a print job separator page with a print job, said method comprising:

transmitting an original print job to a print system component;

determining characteristics of said original print job with said print system component <u>by parsing a print job spool data file</u>;

compiling print job separator page data based on said characteristics; and

creating a <s>combined</s> <u>single, integral, modified spool file</u> comprising said original print job <u>data</u> <s>and a</s> <u>with</u> print job separator page <u>commands inserted therein between a spool file header and an end of job command</u><s>;</s>

<s>wherein said print job separator page comprises said print job separator page data based on said characteristics</s>.

13.   (currently amended) A method for modifying an original print job, said method comprising:

transmitting an original print job to a print system component;

determining characteristics of said original print job <u>with said print system component</u>; and

modifying said original print job to <u>form a single, modified, integral spool file comprising</u> <s>add</s> a description of said characteristics <s>to said original print job</s> <u>inserted</u>

into said spool file between a spool file header and commands describing said original

print job.

14.   (currently amended) A print system component for creating a
single, integral, modified print job by combining a print job separator page with a print
job, said component comprising:

a receiver for receiving a print job;

an analyzer for analyzing said print job; and

a combiner for combining said print job with a print job separator page
page comprising data discovered with said analyzer thereby creating a single, integral
modified combined print job.

15.   (currently amended) A computer readable medium comprising
instructions for creating a single, integral, modified print job by combining a print job
separator page with a print job, said instructions comprising the acts of:

receiving an original print job at a print system component;

analyzing said original print job with said print system component; and

creating a combined single, integral, modified print job comprising said
original print job and a print job separator page comprising data discovered by said
analyzing.

16.   (currently amended) A computer data signal embodied in an electronic transmission, said signal having the function of <u>creating a single, integral, modified print job by</u> combining a print job separator page with a print job, said signal comprising instructions for:

receiving an original print job at a print system component;

analyzing said original print job with said print system component; and

creating a ~~combined~~ <u>single, integral, modified</u> print job comprising said original print job and a print job separator page <u>comprising data discovered by said analyzing</u>.

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the office action dated January 10, 2006.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-12 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Snipp (U.S. 5,699,495) (hereinafter Snipp) in view of Costello (U.S. 5,547,178) (hereinafter Costello).

While applicant maintains that this rejection is improper because it fails to present a prima facie case of obviousness, applicant has amended claims 1, 6, 7, 10 and 12-16 to more particularly point out a point of novelty and non-obviousness of the embodiments described in these claims. These claims have been amended to point out that these claimed embodiments comprise a single, integral, modified print job that comprises a job separator page that is combined with the original print job.

The combination of Snipp and Costello does not disclose a single, integrated, modified print job comprising the original print job and a job separator page. Costello teaches a method of automatically generating a banner sheet whenever a mailbox unit requires splitting a job in a location other than where it was expected. (col. 13, lines 36-47) The banner sheet taught in Costello is a separate and distinct print job and is not combined with the original print job to create a new single, integral, modified print job as taught in the present invention. Neither Costello nor Snipp teach any form of single, integral, modified print job that comprises a job separator page.

Furthermore, the combination of Snipp and Costello does not teach a print system component that analyzes a print job to determine print job characteristics.

In the most recent rejection of these claims, the examiner cites Snipp (Fig. 2, items 28, 30, 38B & 36; col. 3, lines 64-67; col. 4, lines 1-10) as disclosing this analysis or determination step. However, Fig. 2 of Snipp is a simple block diagram showing typical print system components including a graphics engine 28, graphical device interface 30, print driver 38B and a spooler 36. These elements perform typical print processing tasks necessary to translate a print job into data readable by a printing device. Lines 64-67 of column 3 and lines 1-10 of column 4 describe the typical functions of these elements. There is no discussion in Snipp of using any of these elements to analyze a print job to determine print job characteristics or to modify a print job to include additional content.

The examiner also cites Costello (col. 13, lines 36-47) as disclosing a combined print job comprising a job separator page. This claim element has been amended to comprise a single, integral, modified print job comprising a job separator page to more distinctly describe the integration of the job separator page into a single, integral print job. Costello discloses the creation of a job separator page that is inserted after or before a print job to identify the location of portions of the print job that have been rerouted to a different destination. Costello does not describe the integration or combination of the job separator page into the actual print job, but simply discloses a method for sending a job separator page to the same destination as the portions of the print job.

The combination or integration of the job separator page into the print job ensures that the job separator page cannot be separated from the rest of the print job.

Because these elements are not disclosed in the combination of Snipp and

Costello, these claims are allowable, as amended, and the applicant respectfully requests

that the examiner withdraw this rejection.

Regarding claims 2-11, each of these claims is dependent on claim 1, comprises

all the elements thereof, and is, therefore, patentable for the reasons stated above in

regard to claim 1.

Claims 12 and 14-16 have been amended with elements similar to those in claim 1

and are believed to be patentable for the reasons stated above in relation to claim 1.

Claim 12 has also been amended to comprise the element of "creating a single, integral,

modified spool file comprising said original print job data with print job separator page

commands inserted therein between a spool file header and an end of job command."

This element is also not found in the combination of Snipp and Costello.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Snipp (U.S.

5,699,495) (hereinafter Snipp).   While applicant, again, maintains that this rejection fails

to present a prima facie case of anticipation, claim 13 has been amended to more

particularly point out patentable aspects of this claim. Claim 13 has been amended to

comprise "modifying said original print job to form a single, modified, integral print job

comprising a description of said characteristics." As described in relation to other claims

above, this element is not taught in Snipp or any combination of Snipp and Costello.

Accordingly, this claim, as amended, is patentable in its current form.

Furthermore, claim 13 has also been modified to comprise the element of

"modifying said original print job to form a single, modified, integral spool file

comprising a description of said characteristics inserted into said spool file between a

spool file header and commands describing said original print job." This element is not

found in Snipp as well.

Based on the foregoing remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and

allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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